5th February 1925]

Land Revenue.

Remission of land revenue in Tanjore owing to floods.

* 118 Q.—Mr. VENKATARAMA AYYAR alias PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal by the Government to recommend remission of land revenue this year for Tanjore on account of floods;

(*b*) whether Government have formulated or will formulate any proposal to clear the silt from lands affected by the recent floods;

(*c*) the number of pukka buildings and huts fallen in the district of Tanjore during recent floods;

(*d*) whether free grants will be made towards the rebuilding of the houses and huts;

(*e*) whether it has been suggested to the Government to prohibit the export of paddy and food-stuffs from the Tanjore district, and, if so, what action the Government propose to take on such suggestion; and

(*f*) the total number of acreage either silted up or rendered unfit for cultivation due to the recent floods in the districts of Trichinopoly and Tanjore, respectively?

A.—(*a*) Copy of [a] G.O. Mis. No. 1725, dated the 6th November 1924, paragraph 1 is placed on the Table. Also of paragraph 1 of [b] G.O. No. 1931, dated 16th December 1924.

(*b*) The hon. Member's attention is drawn to G.O. No. 1599, Revenue, dated 15th October 1924, and G.O. No 1759, Revenue, dated 12th November 1924, which have been placed on Editors' Table. The Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies is organizing societies for the purpose.

(*c*) Forty-three substantial buildings and 3,942 thatched houses were completely destroyed and 1,026 substantial buildings and 1,156 thatched houses were partially destroyed.

(*d*) & (*e*) The answer is in the negative.

(*f*) About 4,000 acres in Tanjore and about 5,000 acres in Trichinopoly are reported to be at present unfit for cultivation.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*c*) of this question, may I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to be good enough to say what relief, if any, do the Government propose to grant or have granted for the rebuilding of the houses and buildings destroyed by the floods?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Loans have been given with special rates of interest."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Apart from that loan which is available not only for rebuilding houses but for repair of damage to lands and any other purposes, do the Government propose to do or have they done anything by way of giving relief to the owners of those houses and buildings that were destroyed by floods?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"No, Sir. That is being done by the Flood Relief Committee."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I (1) on page 344 infra. [b] Printed as Appendix I (2) on page 344 *infra*.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" That is to say, by the people themselves. With reference to the answer to clause (e) of this question, the answer is somewhat ambiguous. Does it mean that the Government have received no suggestion for the prohibition of export of paddy, or does it mean that they decline to take any action ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" So far as I am aware, no suggestion to that effect was made."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (f), I am simply asking for a clear explanation on the matter ; may I take it from the appendices appended to this answer that all these 4,000 acres in Tanjore and 5,000 acres in Trichinopoly are exempted from payment of assessment for this fasli ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" If they are unfit for cultivation, they will be given remission."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I see no necessity for the 'if', Sir. The answer itself shows that 4,000 acres in Tanjore and 5,000 in Trichinopoly are unfit for cultivation. I am asking, when this is admitted, whether these acres are exempted from payment of assessment in this fasli, since they are admitted by the Government as unfit for cultivation."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have nothing to add to my previous answer, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I do not hear him, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think the hon. the Revenue Member said that he had nothing to add to his previous answer."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" As the custodian of the privileges of this House, may I appeal to you, Sir, to ask the Members of the Treasury Bench to stand up and speak out so that we may hear ? "

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Does the Government propose to take any action by way of prohibiting the export of paddy from the Tanjore district, so that some relief may be afforded to the people ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With regard to the answer to clause (d), may I ask the hon. the Development Minister to tell us how many co-operative societies had been formed and what work has been done and what other work remains to be done ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I have no information."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. Minister kindly call for the information and furnish it ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to the answer to clause (a) and the Government resolution printed on page 20 of Questions and Answers, I am at a loss to know why South Kanara is excluded from the exemption."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" There is a separate order, Sir, about South Kanara."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know what that order is, its number and date, etc. ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I would be pleased to give my hon. Friend a copy of it, Sir, if he wishes. I believe it has not been published."

Inquiry regarding assessment of backyard cultivation.

* 119 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the inquiry commenced in 1917 regarding the assessment of backyard cultivation has been finished and whether the Government have arrived at any decision in the matter and, if so, whether the Government will lay the papers on the table ?

A.—Presumably the hon. Member refers to the undertaking given by Sir Alexander Cardew in the discussion on a resolution moved by the hon. Mr. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar in November 1917. If so, the hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 3075, Revenue, dated 27th August 1918, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

Survey.

Holding of Survey Special Test Examination in Malabar.

* 120 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a public hall was rented at Manjeri in order to hold the Special Test Examination of the Survey Department in Malabar in 1924 ;

(b) whether the examination was held either on the 27th or 28th November 1924 in the rented hall for the purpose or in a private house belonging to one of the candidates who sat for the said examination on the 29th November 1924 ;

(c) if the examination was held on the 29th November 1924 in the private house of one of the candidates who sat for the examination, the reason for so doing ;

(d) who the Superintendents of the examination were ;

(e) whether there was any re-examination of the Survey Special Test Examination in Malabar in any of the years from 1918 onwards and, if so, the reason for it, and who was responsible for it ; and

(f) how many persons applied for the examination held in 1924 and how many were selected and to what communities the selected men belong ?

A.—(a) to (f) The Government have no information.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to clause (b) my information is that the examination was held in a private house of one of the candidates who sat for the examination, though there was a rented hall for the purpose. Now, I ask, Sir, what was the necessity for holding the examination in a private house ? I consider that it is against public policy to do so. Therefore, I want to know whether the Government are not going to call for the information and place it on the Council table."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am afraid, Sir, the matter does not appear to be of sufficient importance."